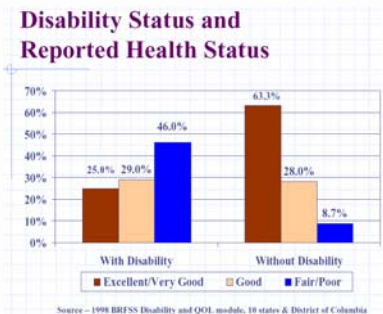


Disability and Health at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



At least 50 million Americans have an activity limitation/disability associated with a long-term physical, sensory, or cognitive condition. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities supports (a) research on risk factors for poor health and well-being; (b) research on measures of health, functioning, and disability; (c) data collection on the prevalence of people with disabilities and their health status; (d) health promotion interventions and the dissemination of health information; and (e) the implementation of public health disability and health policies and programs. The purpose of these efforts is to promote the health, well-being, independence, productivity, and full societal participation of people with disabilities; and reduce the incidence and severity of secondary conditions.



Ongoing Program Activities

Research on Risk Factors and Measures of Health, Functioning, and Disability

Through various grant mechanisms, the program currently funds university- and hospital-based research to

- Examine levels of social participation, health status and secondary conditions among people with disabilities
- Evaluate the use of clinical preventive services and public programs by people with disabilities
- Develop and evaluate cost-effective community-based public health interventions
- Develop and implement disability awareness curricula and training for public health professionals

Data Collection, Health Promotion Interventions, and Information Dissemination

The program currently funds state disability and health programs to

- Build and strengthen state's infrastructures and collaborations to address environmental and lifestyle issues affecting the health and well-being of people with disabilities
- Assess the magnitude of disability in state populations using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS data are available upon request
- Develop health promotion programs that include or target people with disabilities, health professionals, or facilities that promote community health

The program currently supports three National Information Centers: the National Limb Loss Information Center, the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability, and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center. Some of the programs and services of the Centers include

- Information and referral services
- Educational material development and dissemination
- On-line and on-site library catalogs
- Public outreach and training activities

Public Health Policies and Practices Targeting People with Disabilities

The program encourages, participates and provides leadership for the development and implementation of public health policies and practices aimed at improving the health and well-being of people with disabilities including

- The new Healthy People 2010 chapter entitled "Disability and Secondary Conditions," and related objectives in other chapters that address the health of people with disabilities.
- The World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning and Disability (ICF), a companion document to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).